

<p align="center">WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL</p> <p align="center">HALL AND PLAYING FIELD (GENERAL) COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Whitnash Town Council office, Franklin Road, Whitnash</p>	
PRESENT	<p>Councillors: A Barton – Chairman W Pickett R Sparkes S Vaughan</p> <p>Town Clerk: Jenny Mason</p>
IN ATTENDANCE: Groundsman: Dave Herbert	
<p><u>16/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Button, Mrs Falp and Margrave. Apologies were accepted.</p>	
<p><u>17/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.</p>	
<p><u>18/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
<p><u>20/19 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES</u></p> <p>05/19 Matters arising: As reported at the June 2019 meeting the asbestos report has been received and some ceiling tiles were replaced by Cllr Barton and the fixed wiring certificate has been issued for 18 months. The Millennium Garden was watered during the summer months.</p>	
<p><u>21/19 HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS PROJECT AND ACTION LIST</u></p> <p>Fire extinguisher service due in October. Insurance renewal in November 2019 Hearing loop maintenance due in December 2019. A quotation will be sourced for the fire extinguisher service.</p>	

The grass cutting contract expires in October 2019. A quotation will be sourced for next year.

22/19 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report as at 17th September 2019 was sent to all Members.

The new wooden surround around the play area will need to be treated bi-annually along with the new wooden flower planters in the Millennium Garden. The measured mile will also need to be replaced once the new Civic Centre and Library is built.

23/19 COMMUNITY HUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Community Hub income and expenditure summary as at 18th September 2019 was sent to all Members.

24/19 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY

Cllr Mrs Falp tendered her apologies and sent in the report below which was read by Cllr Barton:

I give my apologies for not attending the meeting tonight. The District has changed meetings this week and next so Councillors can go to their conferences. Not something that I need to do, but means I have a meeting tonight I have to be at.

I wanted to update you on the following:

Cllr Barton asked me if I could get the Plough Green verges looked at as the buses are cutting them up. County say they have no money but will price it up and if I have money left from my delegated budget, I will get it done. If not, it will have to wait until next year.

I have not found out who put the bench in Dobson Lane. It is not the Districts as far as they know. Our former police officer, Tony Gooch, does not remember it being put in for Brian Dobson, but will try and find out from Brian's widow. He wondered if Mrs Crutchley would know. So, at the moment I think we will have to leave it there.

The Civic Centre and Library is going through a value engineer exercise with the proposed builder, the funding papers are being worked on as are the legal.

There are people interested in the old hall, but until we know if the new centre is happening, we cannot take this further. We promised our existing hirers we would not stop them using the hall until the new one was ready to be used. We will of course get straight onto that when and if we have a decision.

I agree that if the green light is given to build the Centre, we will need two separate precepts, one for the new centre and one for the current hall and playing fields. Occupation of the new hall is not likely to be before September / October 2020. We still need to do an inventory of what we can take to the new centre and what we might need to buy. (I know we will need soap dispensers and if we are to let out the meeting room, we will need folding tables).

I was wondering if we have room on Acre Close or Washbourne for any of the trees the District Council say they are going to plant for everyone on the District. They would have to be established trees as saplings if not watered do not often survive as I have discovered having planted so many in both fields.

Apologies if I have forgotten anything.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp

Kerry is in the process of preparing two separate precepts – one for Hall and Playing Fields and one for the new Civic Centre and Library.

The clerk will check with Kitty Crutchley if she remembers who installed the bench in Dobson Lane.

The trees from Warwick District Council was discussed and Members suggested that a new tree could be planted at the new Civic Centre and Library when built. The church yard at St Margaret's were looking at new trees for the graveyard extension.

If members thought of any other places that trees could be planted please can they let the Clerk know.

25/19 PRECEPT 2020 - 2021

£2500 for maintenance and improvement of Chapel Green.

£500 for maintenance of wooden surround around play area at Acre Close.

There after £250 each year for the bi-annual maintenance of the surround along with the new wooden planters at the Millennium Garden.

£1500 for gardener to maintain Millennium Garden, flower bed at Heathcote traffic lights, flower bed at Plough and Memorial Garden as well as Civic Centre landscaping.

Cost to angle and lower the hedge surrounding the Millennium Garden.

Dave Herbert to give us a quotation to clear the corner of Washbourne Playing Field that borders on Rowley and Coppice Roads. This to be included in the precept as a separate heading.

A quotation will also be sourced to flatten the mound in this area. Excess soil to be moved near the height restrictor.

New Hearing loop and maintenance for Civic Centre along with soap dispensers and any other items Members think of.

Tree maintenance to include cutting the trees near the Millennium Garden to allow the CCTV camera to see into Washbourne Playing Field. Check with Kerry when last the trees in this area were cut back.

26/19 WHITNASH COMMUNITY HALL

There gas was turned off at the Community Hall. Heating engineers have been to sort this problem. Ian Colls managed to get the stoves to ignite. The roller shutters also had to be repaired recently. Also had issues with the urinal and Chris Brown from Linleigh Electrical sorted the problem for us. A thank you letter will be sent to Chris.

27/19 WHITNASH OPEN SPACES

Area behind Rowley Road at Washbourne Playing Fields – Members discussed this under item 25/19 and quotations would be sourced to flatten the mound.

Cllr Sparkes raised the issue of the new Licence Agreement for the rugby and football pitches with Whitnash Sports and Social Club. Cllr Sparkes referred to the correspondence dated 6th September 2019 and stated that Whitnash Sports and Social Club signed this agreement 'under duress'. It was implied by Cllr Sparkes that the Clerk had sent emails and letters to Whitnash Sports and Social Club which almost led the Club to go to the press. The Clerk was the appropriate signatory for these letters and emails, in line with usual practice. The Clerk and Chairman of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee discussed the progress of the licence agreement at their regular Thursday morning Hall and Playing Fields meetings before emails / letters were sent out.

Councillors and the Whitnash Sports and Social were aware that VAT had to be charged as Whitnash Town Council had registered for VAT.

The issue of the new Licence Agreement has been ongoing since March 2019 and took until 10th September 2019 for this agreement to eventually be signed. Cllr Sparkes stated that if the footballers do not play on the Acre Close pitch the Sports and Social Club may go out of business and Whitnash Town Council will be to blame.

If the Club could not get a long-term licence agreement they may move elsewhere. Cllr Sparkes also said that it would be cheaper for the football teams to move to pitches that were already marked out for them. Prices for pitches hired from Warwick District Council are quoted as:

One off hire for pitch only – adults £38 and juniors £21.00

Hire of pitch for season once per week – adults £545.00 and juniors £284.00.

Cllr Barton defended his actions on behalf of the Council on all points stating Whitnash Town Council had to make appropriate income from all its assets and that this situation had been ongoing for 6 months. A timeline was read out, that the licence agreement, due to the Community Hub build could not be for a period longer than 12 months, that the Licence agreement had to be altered, but not substantially due to the VAT position Whitnash Town Council had found itself in and that Whitnash Town Council could not be held responsible for the demise of a private members club (Whitnash Sports and Social Club).

Cllr Sparkes wants all correspondence to be approved at Town Council meetings, so Members are aware. This was dismissed by the Chair as impracticable.

Cllr Vaughan left the meeting during this discussion.

Cllr Sparkes did not declare an interest as a Member of Whitnash Sports and Social Club during this discussion until prompted by Cllr Barton to do so.

28/19 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email received from Lynwen Wood daughter of the late past Chairman of Whitnash Parish Council (1973 – 1976) requesting that the plaque in the Community Hall commemorating the

opening of the hall can be re-sited to the new Civic Centre and Library? The plaque will be re-sited if the hall is demolished.

2. Cllr Sparkes referred to an email sent by Leamington Royals in June 2019. A reply was sent saying after the June 2019 Hall and Playing Fields meeting to say that a long-term lease would not be considered until the new Community Hub had been built.

29/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 28th November 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED DATE